

## Sermon Notes

## Life Notes

## Upcoming Week

### re:FORMING #5: "We Have the Answer"

Hosea 11:1-9

**Opener:** Have you ever had the opportunity to witness to someone from the Jewish faith or the Muslim religion? If so, how did it feel? If not, how do you think you would go about it?

#### Go Deeper:

1. What does the name "Hosea" mean in Hebrew?
2. Northern Kingdom, Kingdom of Israel. What year was it taken captive by the Assyrians?
3. Southern Kingdom, Kingdom of Judah. What year was it taken captive by the Babylonians?
4. After how many years in captivity in Babylon did a remnant return to Jerusalem?
5. In what year and by whom was Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed?
6. What role(s) does Egypt play in the life of the children of Jacob (Israel) and the birth of Jesus?
7. "We Have the Answer." What are some of the questions?
8. Church attendance? Declining or growing?
9. Spiritual beings: Jesus is the answer. The church works through 3 things. What are they?
10. Who has the answer to suffering in this world? What is the answer?
11. It is nice to be alone once in awhile. What are some benefits to being together with a group? Especially a group of fellow believers?
12. Is there a balance between compassion and law enforcement? What is it?
13. Explain "spiritual" and "religious". Is there a difference? If so, what is it?
14. What's the difference between "preaching about the Gospel" and "preaching the Gospel"?
15. Why do you think that it seems so many people "hate" Israel today?

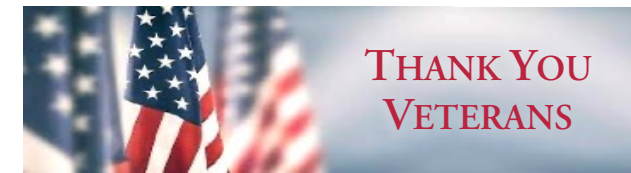
### We would love to hear your story!

If you have a story to share of healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, please send to [hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). (200-300 word limit)

### Daily Bible Readings (November 12-18)

Sunday: Hosea 11:1-9  
Monday: 2 Kings 2:1-12  
Tuesday: 2 Kings 2:13-22  
Wednesday: 2 Kings 4:1-7  
Thursday: 2 Kings 5:1-14  
Friday: 2 Kings 5:15-19  
Saturday: 2 Kings 9:1-10

\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar our sermon series is based on.



### Sunday, November 12

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC  
11am Richard Rosenlof  
Interment of Ashes, Columbarium

**Q&A Pre-Meeting Sessions**  
after each service in B7

### Monday, November 13

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
**12:30-2:30pm GriefShare: Surviving The Holidays, C4**

### Tuesday, November 14

9:30am Esperanza Bible Study, FS  
1:30pm Mary Bible Study, meet offsite  
2pm Naomi Bible Study, FS  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

### Wednesday, November 15

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4  
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR  
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC  
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC  
8pm AA Meeting, FS

### Thursday, November 16

10am Prayer Group, LR  
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS  
11am Stephen Ministry, CH

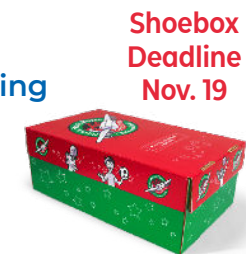
### Friday, November 17

Office Closed

**Saturday, November 18**  
**New Member Commissioning**  
**Blessing of the Shoeboxes**

8am Men's Bible Study, FS  
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel  
FH = Fellowship Hall  
FS = Fireside Room  
LR = Luther Room  
WC = Worship Center  
C4 = Community Room



**Victory Lutheran Church**  
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205  
[hello@victorylutheran.com](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com)  
480-830-5024  
[VictoryLutheran.com](http://VictoryLutheran.com)



## re:FORMING

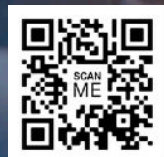


November 11 & 12, 2023  
"We Have the Answer"  
Hosea 11:1-9



## THE PULSE

Connect with us!



**GOD TIME: Spiritual Pilgrimage**  
**Robyn Huck of Woodstock, Vermont**

Hey VLC! We are thrilled to share a snapshot of our journey and time in Rome. Here, the Apostle Paul intentionally embarked on a mission to meet with Caesar, and in the midst of this ancient city, he left us with profound lessons. Paul's visit to Rome was marked by a divine purpose, although its full significance may not have been immediately apparent. He came to share the gospel, not knowing the far-reaching impact it would have on Christianity. Upon his arrival, Paul was placed under house arrest. Just three days later, he invited the Jewish leaders to meet with him. They were curious, having heard little about Paul's activities. Their primary concern, however, was the "sect" he was associated with, one that had gained a somewhat dubious reputation.



In his characteristic passion, Paul clarified that he was not against Israel but believed in the Messiah, the hope of Israel. He emphasized that this message was intended not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. This message was met with a mix of belief and skepticism. Drawing from Isaiah, Paul mourned that many had closed their hearts, ears, and eyes to the truth, foretelling consequences for this unbelief. Nonetheless, his mission persisted as he penned the letter to the Ephesians, highlighting how Jesus Christ had dismantled barriers, uniting Gentiles and Jews in faith.

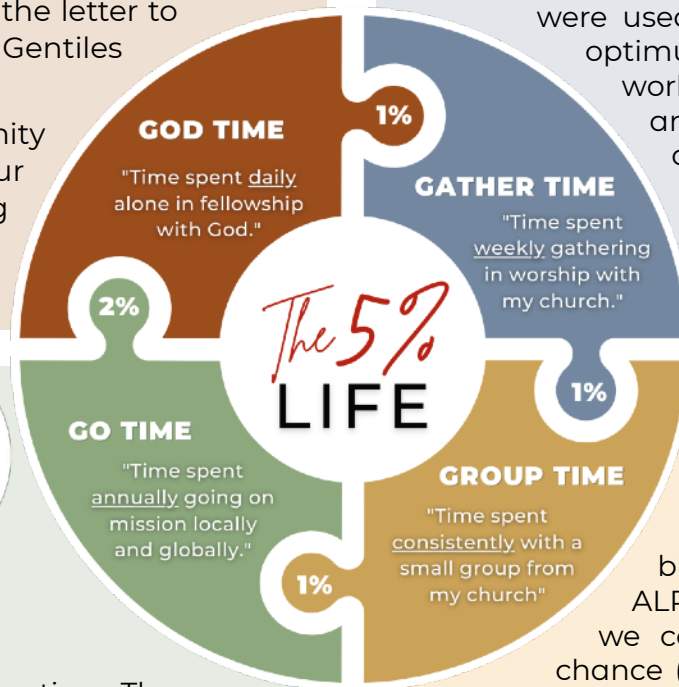
As we reflect on Paul's journey, let us be inspired by his enduring message of unity and grace. We, too, have been grafted into the body of Christ, regardless of our origins. Let us draw strength from the benediction in Ephesians 3, understanding that through Christ, God can accomplish more than we can envision, bringing glory to His name through all generations.

**GATHER TIME: Oktoberfest Recap**

From the beginning of Christianity, God's people have gathered together in fellowship with one another. On October 29th, 240 people participated in Victory's 2nd annual Oktoberfest featuring brats with sauerkraut, German potato salad, pretzels, and, of course, German Beer. To top off the event, an ensemble of accordions played German polka music to entertain the guests. I was humbled to help coordinate a great group of people who gave so much to make Victory's Oktoberfest such a wonderful event. There were so many people who donated their time, money and talent to make it a great success that I will only identify the leader in each area.



Pastor Todd was the visionary for this event. Diane Snyder kept the team, and especially me, on task. Kay Berguin headed the kitchen crew/food preparation team. She coordinated every aspect of the menu and the preparation of the meal. She supervised the servers and assembled the kitchen staff who decorated the facility and served the food to the guests. Eileen Hernandez was the liaison between the team and the Victory staff. She also designed the many Oktoberfest graphics which were used in the celebration. Her table floor plan was outstanding and allowed for the optimum usage of our space. Kathy Michel coordinated many of the activities and worked behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. Dennis Heimpel donated and served the beer (way to go Dennis). He also procured and boiled all the brats. Ted and Marilyn Peterson coordinated and played in the accordion band. This was a special touch which made the event very memorable. Preston Rochel, Victory's head custodian, arranged and set up all the tables and chairs for the event. Again, I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Oktoberfest a wonderful and memorable event! ~ Rich Westland, Event Coordinator



**GO TIME: FAMILY PROMISE @ VICTORY**

**Patty DeGroot, Volunteer**

"Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world." James 1:26-27 (MSG)

Here is why I like staying overnight with the Family Promise families when we are privileged to host them:

- ★ Get a nice "homecooked meal" in the Fellowship Hall! I meet the families at dinnertime. They are just normal people!
- ★ Kids, I get to play with and enjoy the kids! (I was a teacher for 19 years and I still love children!)
- ★ The people who work with this program have a "heart"! I like getting to know them!
- ★ I need reminders to "count my blessings"! I always come home from volunteering for an overnight at church with the families thanking God for His many blessings in my life! This is an easy thing to do! It's well organized! No problem!



**Family Promise Host Week**  
**November 12-19, 2023**

We hope you would be willing to help families that are experiencing homelessness by helping set up & take down rooms, preparing and serving meals, hosting evenings and overnights, baking, and do laundry.

Questions? Contact Kathy Michel at 480-830-5024 ext. 113



**GROUP TIME: Small groups end up being BIG!**

**Roger & Linda Anhorn, Life Group Leaders**

This little story is an example of God's amazing ability to make the totally unplanned and unexpected become a blessing in a person's life. My wife, Linda, and I went to the ALPHA training several years ago. Our group was very small so we combined with another group, thrown together totally by chance (God was at work). None of the four couples had ever met, other than to have attended Victory and maybe having passed by one another entering or leaving the church. We met weekly for the ALPHA training and got to know one another and quickly bonded. We are spread out geographically, chronologically, and professionally; there seemed to be little that we had in common at first . . . except our interest in knowing and doing more for Jesus. After ALPHA we decided to keep meeting weekly for bible study while we were able to (three couples are snowbirds and our youngest couple was from AZ). We grew closer and became great friends! The young couple invited the other three (more chronologically advanced) couples to their wedding, and this summer Linda and I hosted our group at our home in MN for a two-day sleep-over! What a joy! One couple is from MN but the others travelled from Arizona, and Nebraska. We had a great time together and we all agree that our small group is a rich blessing in our lives. We would all highly recommend joining a small group and experience God's blessing through fellowship.



**Annual Congregational Meeting | November 19 @ 11:00am**

Members are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held in the Worship Center. As an added opportunity for financial questions and input, **Q&A sessions will be offered this weekend following each service in Room B7.**